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SUBJECT Desertion of Dutch Troops

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1. On approximately 7 July 1948, about 200 native troops stationed on a tea plantation between Soebang and Tjitjenang deserted en masse and went over to Republican territory, taking their equipment with them.
2. These troops had recently been recruited by the Dutch, were given arms and equipment, and stationed on this particular plantation from which they could be sent out in small groups to guard tea factories and plantations in other nearby areas.
3. In general, troops guarding plantations in this area are strongly infiltrated with Tentara Nasional Indonesia (TNI) men and will turn against the Dutch at the first sign of action.

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